

MR. DVORAK: My name is Bill Dvorak, from Dvorak Rafting and Fishing Expeditions. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak with you this morning. I understand that many of the folks here today are here to protect their jobs and their lifestyles. And I'm here to do the same. I'm a whitewater rafting and fishing outfitter, as well as a lifelong hunter. In the last 16 years, climate extremes have severely affected my business. We've had two of the worst droughts of recorded history in 2002 and '12, countered by years of extremely high water, torrential downpours causing mudslides and rock fall, as well as an earlier spring runoff and abnormal snow packs. There's no such thing as a normal year anymore. Extremes of climate are caused by the increase of ozone-depleting gases created by fossil fuel consumption. The consumption of publically-own coal accounts for more than 57 percent of all the emissions from fossil fuel on public lands. I realize we cannot wean ourselves off fossil fuels overnight. But, at least we can manage them so that American taxpayers get a fair shake. The Federal royalty on coal is currently 12.5 percent, well below the 18.5 percent assessed for offshore publically-owned fossil fuels. It's estimated that U.S. taxpayers have lost over \$30 million in revenue in the last 30 years. The current average price for a ton of coal is \$0.23 a ton. Companies can mine 17 tons of coal for less than the price of a fast-food hamburger. That's not right. Where I live in Central Colorado, between Buena Vista and Salida, we have also seen the ramifications of mining companies not being responsible for the reclamation and cleanup. We have a toxic plume on the Arkansas in 1985 that makes the recent plume on the Animas near Durango seem almost inconsequential. It killed everything -- invertebrates, fish, aquatic plants, everything. It's taken over 20 years and millions of taxpayers' dollars to get it right, and it continues to take more millions every year to keep the current status. Self-bonding for coal companies does not work. Twenty-six companies have declared bankruptcy over the past few years, leaving roughly \$3.6 billion in self-bonding liability that the American taxpayer has to fund. Wildlife and fish needed to be funded. Most coal extractions takes place on prairies, ranchland, and valuable wildlife habitats. And it takes decades to restore the fragile sagebrush steppe of the west to the previous -- pre-mining conditions. I'm a lifelong sportsman, conservationist. And I

feel an obligation to leave the outdoors I enjoy in as good or better condition than I found it. I want to make sure that my children and their children have the same opportunities that I've had to hunt the backcountry, fish Colorado's streams and rivers, and make a living showing folks the wonders of these places. We need to do more to ensure that wildlife habitat is restored and waterways are protected from erosion and sediment. Or we will get to a point where an important part of our economy and Colorado way of life will suffer lasting harm. Thank you for your time.